

Thirteenth Message from the President  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Colleagues,

One thing I dislike a lot is eating alone. Thanks to my arch enemy COVID, I've eaten alone more in the last 15 months than I have in a lifetime. I know I'm not alone in feeling alone! Today, however, is a special day where we can eat together at a cook-off and bake-off in the west gym starting at 11:20 a.m. for slow cooker tasting and 11:55 a.m. for baking tasting. With such a large space, it will be easy to spread out. Thanks to Keisha Rheams, Steve Dutcher, the cooks and bakers for making this special for us, and maybe even offering some inspiration as we get ready for our own holiday meals.

It's almost Thanksgiving time, so I thought I would do two things: 1) Tell you how much I appreciate being part of the IMSA community. The care, compassion and extended hours you put in are deeply appreciated. I'm so humbled and honored to call you my colleagues; and 2) I believe I am not alone with these sentiments, so I would like to offer you a chance to share Thanksgiving gratitude to anyone in the community. It can be for a fellow colleague, student, parent, alumni, professional partner or anyone else that has given you a sense of belonging or desire to get better at IMSA. If you complete [this survey](#) by Monday, November 22, I will deliver that appreciation in a special email message before Thanksgiving. Any gratitude notes entered after Tuesday may be influenced by tryptophan and result in a post-holiday slumber.

**[Take the "Thanks" giving Survey](#)**

Another bit of gratitude I have this year is COVID testing, and all of the supports behind it from our nursing team to the Monitoring Committee. We are blessed to have regular testing to catch the virus quickly, so fast that our cases have been limited this fall with very little transmission among students. We even had a five-week stretch without a case, which is quite impressive given our community is residential. In addition to testing, we now have the COVID booster clinic through December so you can get an upgrade. Please make sure you share updated health information with our team at [vaccine@imsa.edu](mailto:vaccine@imsa.edu).

Today, we are hosting the Board of Trustees in our regularly scheduled meeting

for November. The topics focus on student fees for next year, the Intercultural Development Inventory for the Board, and a deep dive on equity and placement testing. I'd like to express appreciation to Eric Rettberg for being the Board liaison to the faculty, and also his efforts to highlight accomplishments and interesting lessons from our colleagues. Next Monday at 12:00 p.m., I will run a post-Board meeting recap for colleagues by Zoom, and Dr. Comfort Akwaji-Anderson and Dr. Jeanette Bartley will review their deep dive presentation. All Board materials can be found on the [IMSA Board Docs website](#).

Since this is the last update for November, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our colleague Traci Ellis for her leadership and service at IMSA. Traci's last day is November 30 where she will set sail for retirement. An opportunity to celebrate her contributions and send best wishes will be on Tuesday, November 23, when she will be in the HR office. We are currently in the process of selecting an interim Chief Human Resources Officer in order to provide continuity in the role for the remainder this year. In early 2022, we will conduct a national search to identify and select Traci's successor before next school year. Please join me in wishing Traci a joyful retirement.

Titans Together,

Evan

**Dr. Evan M. Glazer**

*President*